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A strange and wonderful

RELATION

Of the Miraculous

Judgements of GOD

In the late Thunder and Lightning on Saturday the 29 of this instant *August*, being the next day after Mr. *Love* and Mr. *Gibbons* were beheaded.

Shewing in what a fearfull and terrible manner one *William Deane* was struck dead with a Thunderbolt, and six more stricken dumb, with other strange and unheard of wonders which were seen and felt at the the same time at *Hendon*, and in some places on the River of *Thames* by many hundred spectators.

Also a Certificate, and the names of divers persons of quality, to justifie the truth of this Relation brought hither to be Printed.

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A strange and wonderfull Relation

of a fearfull judgement of God, upon *Iohn Dean* of Henden in the County of Middlesex, and many others by the late Thunder and Lightning on Saturday the 23 of August, to the astonishment and admiration of a great number of spectators, the chief whereof have given a certificate under their hands, of the truth of this relation which is hereunto annexed.

ALthough the works of nature are wonderfull and an argument of the infinite power of the Creator, yet are there gradations or degrees therein; had the subject whereof this discourse is grounded been ordinary or usuall, I should not have troubled the presse (much lesse the Reader) therewith: yet had it not brought with it more then ordinary reluno-

ny of the truth and reality, from such as were both ear and eye witnesses, it should rather have been buried in the pit of oblivion then come to publick view, but when the subject represents it self a kind of miracle or at least a wonder fit to be taken notice of by the sons of men, and that the question cannot be no sooner moved then resolved touching the reality thereof; the very matter it self seemeth to lay an obligation on those that are already acquainted therewith to communicate the same to publick it being a subject which may strike terrour into the wicked and stir up the Godly to exercise their faith and keep close unto God by a holy conversation.

On Saturday the 23 of this instant *August* about one or two of the clock in the morning (being the next day after Mr. *Love* and Mr. *Gibbons* were beheaded) it is well known to the City of London and adjacent Counties, that there began a most terrible and fearfull thunder and lightning, which continued with little intermission) for the space of twelve hours or more, with great storms and tempests the like for continuance of time and terrible claps of thunder, answering one another from the West to the North, and from the North to the West again, cannot be witnessed by the oldest man living. And although we are not ignorant of the Secundary causes mentioned by Phylosophers, yet if we look upon these kind of demonstrations in a Christian and Scripture sence we may see more of the mediate hand of God, as it must needs be acknowledged and confessed by a fearful example which happened the same day about eleven or twelve of the clock at Bram-street in the Parish of Henden in the County

County of Middlesex about six miles from London which was as followeth.

William Dean servant to *Thomas Etheridge* of Brain-street in the Parish of Henden aforesaid, being cleaving of wood in a room in the yard near the house, and perceiving a tempest comming, seeing the lightning to shine round about him, and hearing two or three great and terrible claps of Thunder, forthwith in a great amazement catched up his doublet which lay by him and throwing away his Axe, ran with all the speed he could into the house, and comming into the Kitchin in a trembling manner began to speak of fearfull thunder claps which he had heard when he was in the yard cleaving of wood, and withall said, that *he never heard Thunder it but a Thunder bolt fell.*

Which words were no sooner uttered by him but immediately he was stricken dead, falling down on the ground, and was not seen to stir any more, there was in the Kitchin, one maid which was busie about her ordinary imployment, and another holding of a child and three children more playing about the room and at the same moment of time wherein *William Dean* was stricken dead, the maid which held the child and all the children were struck dum, and for a time to the outward appearance, were as void of life as fence; the other maid which was about her houshold work at the same instant (with a dog and a Basket of apples which stood in the Kitchin) was (by what means she knew not) carried by force and power out of that room into the next, where this maid was left as void of fence as the children and her fellow servant was in the kitchin.

At length (that is to say,) within the space of half a

quarter of an hour one of the maids began to come to her ſelf, and by degrees to recover her ſences, and with a gaſh and dreadful countenance looking upon the children and the other maid found them to move and ſtir, but not perceiving any motion at all to proceed from him, ſhe took him by the hand, ſaying *William how do you*; but when ſhe perceived that inſtead of the expected eccho of a living voice, ſhe was anſwered by nothing but the ſad appearance of death, ſhe ran out of the houſe, and with a doleful cry called to Captaine *Brown*, Goodman *Gamery*, Goodman *Cleyborn* and *Alice Grove*, which being neighbours haſted into the houſe, where they beheld the ſad and fearful ſpectacle of the ſaid *William Dean* to lie dead on the ground, and no ſpark of life could be perceived any more in him; but the children and the other maid (though much frighted and amazed) were indifferently well recovered.

In the next place are we to take notice of the ſtrange and wonderfull influence or opperation the lightening and thunder had on the houſe it ſelf, at the ſame time, when the man was ſtricken dead, and the reſt with dumbneſſe and aſtoniſhment as aforeſaid, for although there was not any apparent ſign or ſhow of the fall of any Thunder bolt, yet was one of the Timber-quarters in the wall of the houſe broken to pieces, and part of the kitchin wall broken down, and as it were by a rebound up or recoil back again, the force thereof aſcended up the wall broke the Chimney, and tore the window in pieces.

There was alſo a prong or a pitchfork ſtanding by the ſaid *William Dean* when he was ſtrooken dead which was ſplit into many peeces and the ſhivers carried into

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two other rooms, to the amazement of all that came to behold it. I might in this place by way of inlargement carry you on to a discourse or disputation concerning the naturall cause of these matters of wonder and whether the execution might be (instrumentally) more properly attributed to the Lightning or to the thunder or promixtuoally to both, but this being a thing simply belonging to the Metaphisicks and requires more paper to make it plain for the capacities of the vulgar, I shall rather desire the reader to look up unto him *who sits in the circle of heaven, and doth whatsoever he pleaseth both in heaven and in earth; (who stretcheth forth the clouds as a rayment, and sendeth forth his lightnings, and his voice in the loud thunder)* and pray that he will deliver us from Lightning and Tempests, &c. acknowledging that our sins deserve the severest of Gods judgements, then slightly to let these works of terrour and wonder so slip out of our minds, or like Atheists to attribute all to secundary causes, as if all things sprung of nature, and therein give the glory of the Creator to the creature, which honour himself saith *he will not give unto another*.

I shall not trouble you with any matter of circumstance then what are requisite for the clear demonstration of the truth of this wonder or of the strange sights and sounds, reported to be heard and seen the same day upon the river of Thames, and in other places, nor stand to compare these (of which we have already spoken) with such wonders as have happened in former times and what they have presaged, the examples whereof being almost infinite.

To

To conclude therefore; this *William Dean* was seen by a great number of people, after his death, of good ranck and quality, but no wound or scar, or so much as a bruise was found about his body; he was buried in *Henden* Church-yard on Sunday the 24. of this instant *August*, in the presence of many hundred people, some whereof, together with those that were first called in to see this fearfull sight have given a Certificate thereof under their hands, as followeth:

A Certificate of divers known persons of quality in the Parish of Henden *in the County of* Middlesex, *touching the truth and certainty of the foregoing Relation.*

We whose names are hereunto subscribed do hereby certifie that *William Dean* of *Henden* in a strange and miraculous manner was suddenly strucken dead by a Thunderbolt in the late tempests of thunder and lightning, on Saturday the 23. of this instant *August* in that strange manner as is before related, and that the rest of the unheard of wonders herein related are true.

Jo. *Page*, senior.	*John Large.*
Jo. *Page*, junior.	*H. Gawdy.*
Captain *Brown.*	*Alice Grove.*
Rich. Cleyborn.	*J. Clerk.*

FINIS.

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